

EMERITI NEWSLETTER

OHIO UNIVERSITY

Under Construction When I agreed to do the newsletter I was thinking in terms of newsletters I'd done before --*The Dinosaur Daily*, *The Antediluvian Gazette* -- typing a stencil, then running off on a mimeograph machine or having it set in hot type and assembled by compositors. It's a whole new world these days. I need a template and hadn't a clue how to get/make one. Anita James and Margaret Thomas have been paragons of patience with me but I didn't have enough knowledge to even know what I didn't know. In desperation (and why didn't I think of it earlier?) I asked for help from my nephew, Andrew Stout (son of Don Stout, Director Emeritus of University Publications). He's working on it. In the meantime, I need to get this newsletter out.

The Sun: Now You See It, Now You Don't

Were you able to get to any of the eclipse-watching gatherings? I was at the one at the Athens Public Library (on my way over there I noticed a dozen or more cars of people who were up on Bong Hill) and what fun it was! People of all ages, kids running around, astronomers professional and amateur were gathered between the library and the river, many observers with their goofy-looking but absolutely essential safety glasses. Folks who were unable to get the glasses or who just wanted a fun, old-timey experience had pin-holed cardboard boxes, one that must have held a refrigerator in another life. But that was bound to have at least smelled better than Thomas Edison's viewing arrangements inside a chicken coop back in 1878. And everyone was so happy. It was a welcome antidote to the nation's feelings following the events in Charlottesville earlier in the month.

That cheerful feeling wasn't confined to Athens. Before going to the library I had been listening to reports on NPR as they tracked the eclipse sweeping eastward at almost 1,700 miles per hour across the nation. The total eclipse in 1973 outran a Concorde supersonic jet (remember those?) traveling at 1,250 mph in which scientists were able to make 74 minutes of observations. From the ground the totality usually lasts only 2-3 minutes. In the NPR reports you could hear excited chatter of the observers as the reporter counted down the seconds, sudden awed silence at blackout and then shouts and cheering.

Save your safety glasses! There will be another total eclipse in 2024 and we will be in or very, very close to the Path of Totality.

Who Ever Said There Was No Such Thing As A Free Lunch?

The September meeting of the Emeriti will provide exactly that – a FREE lunch. All you have to do is contact Tom Franz (franz@ohio.edu) and let him know you'll be there. In addition to free food you'll have an opportunity to hear Ohio University's new president -- Duane Nellis.

So mark your calendars: Thursday, September 21, Ohio University Inn at 11:30 a.m. for **A FREE LUNCH!!**

On the subject of lunch, remember to let Tom know before each luncheon date (before the third Thursday of each month) that you will be coming so The Inn will have some idea of how much food to prepare. You can save yourself the need for that monthly notification by signing up as a regular. Then all you have to do is let Tom know if you *won't* be coming but here's a word of warning: If it happens that you can NOT attend some month you have to tell Tom or he will tell The Inn to expect you and you will be charged for the meal.

By the way, did I tell you the September lunch is free?

A Letter from the President – Alan Boyd

We are beginning another emeriti year or school year, if you prefer. A beginning implies a fresh start, a clean slate (a good academic metaphor), from scratch, the starting line for a race. As Horace said, this is a time to be “bold and venture to be wise.” Or as L.M. Montgomery is quoted as saying, “Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet.”

Our new president, Duane Nellis is quoted in the 09/13/2017 Messenger, the fall semester edition, as saying, “It is with great joy and excitement that I begin this academic year with you as your president.”

A new beginning marks an end also, in our case, the end of the summer. It also contains expectations, something we can look forward to. So, as we begin our year, I hope we are looking forward to some exciting programs, some good fellowship and some interesting

experiences, which we will share with each other. As president of this organization, I am looking forward to an exciting year, including the establishment of the Carlson Memorial Kiosk, working with the new board, and meeting new members. I hope you are, too.

Obituaries

These two obituaries are quite long but that seems only fitting since Ruth served the Emeriti Association for so long and so cheerfully. We all appreciate her dedication and we will all miss her. And Gifford's contribution to the university and to world well-being deserves recognition.

Ruth Nostrant 1927 - 2017 Obituary



ATHENS - Ruth Gloria Steele Nostrant, age 90, of Athens, Ohio passed away Monday, Aug. 14, 2017 at the Lindley Inn. She was born March 24, 1927 in Buffalo, New York, to Otto and Aline Steele.

Ruth was a three-time graduate of Ohio University earning a Bachelor of Arts in English (1949), a Master's in Education (1977), and a Master's in Liberal Studies (1982). Ruth was an avid Ohio University supporter. She was a season ticket holder for both the football and basketball teams for over 50 years. For many of those years she was a member of the Green and White Club. Ruth served as the Emeriti Association treasurer for over 20 years. Ruth's love for learning was evidenced by her participation in dozens of Elderhostels both nationally and internationally. She spread the joy of learning to hundreds of elementary students over her 25 year teaching career in New York State, Porto Alegre, Brazil, and at East Elementary in Athens, Ohio. It was as a young elementary teacher that she met her "Prince," Richard John Nostrant, whom she married on April 12, 1952. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Richard, four sons,

Mark (Elina) of Baltimore, Maryland, Craig of Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and Athens, Kurt (Cheryl) of Albany, and Neil of Dayton, OH; eight grandchildren, Cassandra (Jason) Johnson, Elizabeth Nostrant, Amanda (Griffin) Drake, Valerie Nostrant (fianc  Ben Hulsey), Paul Nostrant (fianc  Allie Powell), Rachel (Sam Page) Nostrant, Carrie Nostrant, Armen Nostrant; two great-grandchildren, Everly and Archer Johnson; several sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents and two siblings; Helen Jones and Charles Steele. Ruth's life was long, full, and productive with a wide variety of activities always being planned. Over the years Ruth participated in Hospice Bridge, Bridge Club, Athens Book Club, Athens Senior Club, Retired Teacher's Association, Allemander's Square Dancing, and Senior Club Line Dancing. She opened her home to many foreign exchange students as well as Ohio University students over the years. There was always an extra place at Ruth's table. She loved music, frequently playing the piano at family functions and could be heard ringing the bells at Athens First Presbyterian Church on Sunday mornings. Ruth was passionate about preserving the environment. She was an original block leader for recycling in her east side neighborhood and lived by the reduce, reuse, recycle rule. She also believed in giving to others. For years she baked desserts to donate to local churches for distribution to the needy. Ruth was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Gathering family members together, including extended family, for trips, reunions, or just to visit was a mission in her life. She will be remembered and missed by all those who knew her. The family would like to thank OhioHealth Hospice and the Lindley Inn for the care Ruth received.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at the OU Inn on Sunday, Aug. 20, 2017.

Published in The Athens Messenger on Aug. 16, 2017.

Gifford B. Doxsee

(July 4, 1924 - July 16, 2017)



The town of Athens lost a good friend when Gifford B. Doxsee, age 93, died on the evening of July 16, 2017 at OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital, Athens.

Gifford was born July 4, 1924 in Bay Shore, NY; the son of the late Robert Lenox Doxsee and Jessie May Gifford Doxsee. Gifford grew up working hard in his father's clamming business, Doxsee Sea Clam Company. He graduated from Freeport high school in 1942, and that same year Gifford enlisted in the United States Army; eventually he served in the European Theater, 106th Infantry Div. 3rd Bn HQ Co., 423 Infantry Regiment in World War II. He was a Prisoner of War in Germany for 5 months, billeted in Dresden, Germany in Slaughter House 5, where he

met fellow Prisoner of War Kurt Vonnegut, who later wrote the novel *Slaughter House Five* which was inspired by their experience.

After the war, Gifford attended Cornell University, graduated in 1948, then attended Harvard University for graduate studies in history of modern Europe. He earned his graduate degree in 1949, taught at The American University in Beirut, Lebanon from 1952-1955 and later earned a Ph.D from Harvard University in 1966.

Gifford moved to Athens in 1958 to teach European, African and Middle Eastern history at Ohio University. He married his wife Mary Letitia Cowan, who was also a professor at OU, at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in 1964. During his years at OU, Dr. Doxsee was considered a scholar of Middle Eastern History, he served on committees for the University, including chairing the Energy Conservation Committee in the 1970's and directing the African Studies graduate program from 1983-1991, and is remembered by many students as a supporter and encourager who helped his students achieve their goals. Dr. Doxsee enjoyed attending OU basketball games with his wife and friends, traveling, telling stories about his life, and being part of the OU community. After 35 years at OU, Dr. Doxsee retired from teaching and became Professor Emeritus of History. He and his wife chose to stay in Athens after their retirements.

Gifford was active in the life of Athens, volunteering and sometimes serving as director for many local organizations including: the Athens County Historical Society and Museum, Rural Action, Planned Parenthood of S. E. Ohio, Appalachian Community Hospice, and others. He was a member of the Athens Reading Club, Kiwanis Club of Downtown Athens, and several national professional organizations. He was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame for his many years of community service. In addition, he served as adjunct/treasurer of the Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War, and as JVC of the Dept. of Ohio. Remembering his prisoner of war days, he taught GED classes to prison in-mates and mentored ex-convicts. He was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2011. He was loved by many in Athens, and had just recently received an Honor Quilt from the Athens Ladies Elk Auxiliary.

Gifford was a faithful and active member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens where he served in multiple capacities, including Senior Warden, and participated in many diocesan-wide ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio. Gifford served on the Liberian Discernment Committee, and visited the Anglican Diocese of Liberia to form a relationship between the two dioceses. He helped start and supported the Hocking Valley Correctional Chapter of KAIROS, a Christian ministry to prisoners, supported programs to welcome and support Haitian refugees, and was instrumental in forming relationships with international students, especially students from Africa. His relationship with an Anglican priest from Nigeria, the Rev. Felix Obayan, led to the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Kwana in Western Nigeria, the Rt. Rev. Herbert Haruna, asking Gifford to serve as his Commissary (host/representative), which led to many relationship-building visits. Gifford worked with several other members of Church of the Good Shepherd who together helped the parish realize, embrace, and live into its ministry to the international students in Athens.

Whether people knew Gifford from OU, around town, his local parish, diocese or international relationships, he was known as someone who cared about others, was genuinely interested in how people were doing, and wanted to do what he could to make the world a better place.

Gifford is survived by his brother, Robert L. (Patricia) Doxsee, Jr., of Point Lookout, NY; brother-in law, Emil J. Nagele; nieces Elizabeth B. Doxsee, Jennifer Doxsee Gilmore and Pamela Wahl; nephews Robert Doxsee and Richard Nagele, Colin and David Frost; and a dear friend, Julia Nehls of Athens.

Besides his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Mary Cowan Doxsee a professor of Home Economics at Ohio University in 2008; and a sister, Eleanor Nagele.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 9th at 2:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 64 University Terrace, Athens, with the Rev. Deborah Woolsey officiating. His ashes will be interred in Union Cemetery of Lloyd, New Paltz, New York.

Arrangements are with Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, Athens. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio; Ohio University Foundation; KAIROS of Ohio; or the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Please share a memory, a note of condolence or sign the online register book at www.jagersfuneralhome.com

A Touch of Nostalgia and a Reminder

Many of you will remember The Arthur Godfrey Show and perhaps you'll remember a frequent guest on that show -- Duke Kahanamoku (which may or may not be spelled that way. I only ever heard it, I never saw it.) Duke had a favorite saying, "For free, take; for buy, cost too much." He for sure would have called franz@ohio.edu to make a reservation for the Free Lunch on September 21.

Your New Editor

As you may already know, I, Patricia Black, am the new editor of the emeriti newsletter. I'm new at this particular endeavor so I beg your indulgence if things are a bit rough. I'll improve.

I can't be everywhere all the time so I am asking you all to contact me with items you think are newsworthy. I'll include what I can, space permitting. However, for those times when space more than permits and we need filler, I'm going to do a now-and-then squib which I'll call *Conundrums*. These are things I've puzzled over, some for most of my life, and I hope with this educated and erudite readership I can get some answers. To start things off, why do we say we turn a light on, we turn a light off and we turn a light out but we never turn it in?

News About Emeriti Park

For this month all we can report is that the changes

there are coming along nicely. Dick Dean will have a full report for us in October. In the meantime, he will enjoy the

Free Lunch at the Emeriti meeting on September 21. Join him. Contact Tom Franz at franz@ohio.edu to sign up.

Programs Planned for the Coming Year

September 21	Dr. M. Duane Nellis, 21 st President of Ohio University And lunch is free, remember?
October 19	Steve Patterson, Athens City Mayor and Tom Pyle, Athens Chief of Police
November 16	Dr. Amrit Singha, Professor of English, speaking on "Partism of India"
December 21	Christmas Music
January 18	Ed Pauley, Kennedy Museum of Art Director and Sally Delgado, Museum Education Director speaking on "Current Activities and the Collection"
February 15	Mark Seckinger, President, Ohio Health O'Bleness Hospital
March 15	Keller Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney
April 19	Dr. Richard Vedder, Distinguished Professor of Economics speaking on "Are We Providing for Our Children?"
May 17	Ohio University Provost (tentative)
June 21	To be announced
September 20, 2018	Dr. M Duane Nellis, 21 st President of Ohio University

Thanks to Art Marinelli for getting all these busy people nailed down. He's going to be at the September 21 meeting for the Free Lunch.

Emeriti Volunteers

The Emeriti Association plans to continue offering opportunities for Emeriti to volunteer in our university and community this year. A special thanks to all who volunteered to serve this summer when we could not solicit at our meetings! Fall Semester the Kennedy Museum has requested volunteers to greet visitors on Wednesdays from 12-2:00 p.m. and 2-4:00 p.m. The Dairy Barn has completed the quilt exhibition and will not need volunteers until its next show. Phyllis Field Baxter (fieldp@ohio.edu) and Jared Butcher (butcherj@ohio.edu) will be soliciting volunteers both by email and by clipboards passed around at our luncheons. In appreciation of our members' service a name of a person who has recently volunteered is randomly chosen monthly to receive a free luncheon at a subsequent meeting.

Note, however, that *everyone* gets a free lunch on September 21. Contact Tom Franz (franz@ohio.edu) to let him know you'll be there.